

**Committee for Purchase From People
Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled**

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**Kimberly M. Zeich named Deputy
Executive Director of Committee staff.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Committee announces new Deputy Executive Director

Washington, DC, September 16, 2008— The Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled officially announced the new Deputy Executive Director for the independent federal agency's staff yesterday during its September meeting.

Kimberly M. Zeich was named the Committee's Deputy Executive Director and will succeed Patrick Rowe. Zeich has worked for the agency for several years in communications and operations. She will work closely with Rowe until his October 31, 2008 retirement to ensure a smooth transition.

"My 16 years with the Committee staff have afforded many opportunities to work in both operations and communications roles, and I welcome this opportunity to serve the Committee as the Deputy Executive Director," Zeich said. "I look forward to promoting the AbilityOne employment mission and customer value philosophy in this new capacity."

The Committee is an independent federal agency based in Arlington, Va., whose mission is to generate employment opportunities for people who are blind or severely disabled through the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the federal government. The Committee administers the AbilityOne Program, a unique federal acquisition initiative and the single largest source of employment for people who are blind or severely disabled in the United States.

"Ms. Zeich possesses the depth of experience and breadth of vision that we need moving into future," Tina Ballard, Executive Director, said. "She is well respected throughout the federal government for her commitment to AbilityOne"

Zeich became Director, Program Operations in April 2007. Prior to that, she was Director, Business Development and worked extensively in strategic communications, as well as public affairs, since joining the agency in 1992.

"Overseeing the operations department gave me a new and profound respect for the critical, time-sensitive business processes executed by the Committee staff on a daily basis to maintain the Procurement List and thus support AbilityOne jobs across the country," Zeich said.

In 2000, she received a Special Service Award for her work in developing commercial distribution partnerships for AbilityOne retail products.

Zeich is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the University of Maryland's College of Journalism, and earned her master's degree in business administration in 2003. She is a 2007 graduate of the Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society program.

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The AbilityOne Program provides employment opportunities for people who are blind or have other severe disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the federal government. The Committee determines which products and services are suitable for procurement from AbilityOne-participating nonprofit agencies. It establishes the fair market prices for these products and services, and revises the prices according to market conditions. The Committee collaborates with other federal agencies to expand AbilityOne business and thus jobs for the AbilityOne workforce.

The Committee is comprised of 15 Presidentially-appointed members, 11 of whom represent governmental agencies, and four private citizens knowledgeable about the employment problems of people who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

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